

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 11, 19 to 21 and 36 to 58 will be pending. Claims 2 to 10, 12 to 18, and 22 to 35 have been canceled without prejudice as directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 36 to 58 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification. The new claims add no new matter to the specification. Applicants reserve the right to pursue all canceled claims in one or more divisional applications.

Applicants thank Examiner Kosson for her time to discuss the Restriction Requirement on December 10, 2007. Applicants have in accordance with that discussion filed the present Supplemental Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment. During the discussion, applicants' representative pointed out that certain of the sequences recited in claim 1 are comprised within sequences recited in claim 12. Applicants point out here that the amino acid sequences recited in claim 11, i.e., SEQ ID NOs: 7, 11, 15, 19, and 23, contain within them the sequences recited in claim 1, i.e., SEQ ID NOs: 9, 13, 17, 21 and 25, respectively.

Specifically, SEQ ID NO: 9 is identical to amino acids 374-424 of SEQ ID NO: 7; SEQ ID NO: 13 is identical to amino acids 374-450 of SEQ ID NO: 11; SEQ ID NO: 17 is identical to amino acids 374-481 of SEQ ID NO: 15; SEQ ID NO: 21 is identical to amino acids sequence 374-512 of SEQ ID NO: 19; and SEQ ID NO: 25 is identical to amino acids 374-543 of SEQ ID NO: 23.

Examiner Kosson indicated that she would consider examining SEQ ID NOs: 7 and 9, i.e., Groups 1 and 15, together in the present application. Applicants therefore request that action and that Groups 1 and 15 be officially rejoined into a single Group. Applicants have added new dependent claims 47 to 58, which depend from claim 11 (a member of Group 15).

Further, given the above, applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner consider rejoining the following Groups: Group 2 with Group 16, Group 3 with Group 17, Group 4 with Group 18, and Group 5 with Group 19.

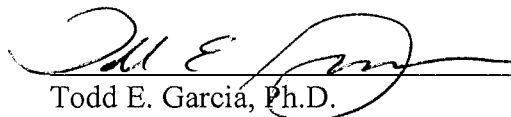
No fees are believed to be due. However, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 19003-002US1.

Applicant : Carl Ralph Flannery *et al.*
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Page : 7 of 7

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 26, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd E. Garcia", is written over a horizontal line.

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